

NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY

NOTICE OF PSD PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION AND DRAFT PART 70 OPERATING PERMIT
MODIFICATION

To All Interested Parties:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces its intent to modify Part 70 Air Quality Operating Permit No. 4911-095-0002-V-02-0 issued to Mitchell Steam-Electric Generating Plant by the issuance of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit Amendment No. 4911-095-0002-V-02-3. The facility is located at 5200 Radium Springs Road, Albany Georgia. The facility operates a steam electric generating facility.

The primary purpose of this permit amendment is to allow physical modifications to convert a 155 MW coal-fired steam unit (Mitchell Unit 3) to a 96 MW biomass-fired stoker boiler. The facility will accomplish this by adding a cyclone separator ash removal system upstream of the air preheater, modifying the bottom ash removal system, and replacing the coal yard and coal handling system with a new biomass yard and biomass delivery system. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is preparing Title V Operating Permits in accordance with Title V of the Clean Air Act. This permit amendment will be enforceable by the Georgia EPD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other persons as otherwise authorized by law.

The draft permit, PSD Preliminary Determination, and all information used to develop the draft permit are available for review. This includes the application and all other relevant materials available to the permitting authority. This information is available for review at the office of the Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Atlanta Tradeport - Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. A copy of the application may also be available for review at the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, County Administrative Building, P.O. Box 1827, 222 Pine Avenue, Albany, GA 31702 (Telephone: 229-431-2121), along with a copy of the draft permit and PSD Preliminary Determination. Electronic files of the application, draft Title V permit, and PSD Preliminary Determination will be available at our internet site at;

<http://www.georgiaair.org/airpermit/html/permits/psd/main.html>

(Please note that the Internet is generally accessible from most public libraries in Georgia and at the Air Protection Branch office listed above.)

If copies are desired, a copying machine for public use is provided by EPD at the Atlanta Air Protection Branch office. Copies cost \$0.25 per page and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Files are available for review and copying 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, excluding holidays.

You are hereby notified of the opportunity to submit written public comments concerning the draft Part 70 Operating Permit Modification and the Preliminary Determination concerning the modification. The Preliminary Determination is a summary of the technical review of the application and contains a copy of the Company's application along with supporting documents and the draft Permit Amendment. The draft permit serves as both a draft PSD permit and a draft Part 70 permit amendment. Persons wishing to comment on the draft Part 70 Operating Permit Modification and Preliminary Determination are invited to submit their comments, in writing, to EPD at the Atlanta address above, postmarked no later than 30 days

after the date of publication in the newspaper. All comments postmarked on or prior to that date will be considered by the Division in making its final decision on the permit.

The Division has concluded that Mitchell Steam-Electric Generating Plant's application should be approved and that a permit should be granted. This conclusion is based upon evidence that the proposed project will comply with the Division's Rules and Regulations for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1; that the emissions from the source will not cause or add to a violation of any applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) or Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment; and will comply with the Federal PSD regulations, 40 CFR 52.21, including the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for regulated pollutants.

Net emission increases of SO₂, NO_x, H₂SO₄, Pb and F from the proposed project do not exceed the significant emission levels established by the PSD regulation. The net emission increases of PM₁₀, CO and VOC from the proposed project exceed the significant emission levels established by the PSD regulation. The Division has determined that these emissions will not cause an adverse impact on ambient air quality, and the air quality levels should pose no significant health risk around the plant.

The PSD regulations allow specific maximum incremental increases in ambient concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The EPD has determined that the maximum predicted impacts of these pollutants due to the proposed modification will consume 0 percent of the annual PM₁₀ PSD increment, and 60.6 percent of the 24-hour PM₁₀ PSD increment. Thus, EPD has concluded that the facility will not adversely affect the air quality (i.e., exceed the allowable incremental increases in ambient concentration of PM₁₀).

With regard to the Class I Area (St. Marks Wilderness Area, Okefenokee Wilderness Area, Wolf Island Wilderness Area), the EPD has determined that the allowable PM₁₀ emissions from the facility will consume at the most 22.7 percent (on a 24-hour basis) of the PSD Class I increments. With this in mind, EPD has concluded that the facility will not adversely affect the air quality (i.e., exceed the allowable Class II and Class I incremental increase in ambient concentrations of PM₁₀).

Any requests for a public hearing must be made in writing within the 30-day public comment period. Such requests should specify in detail the portion of the Air Quality Control Rules which the individual believes may not have been adequately reviewed. A public hearing may be held if the Director of the EPD finds that such a hearing would assist the EPD in a proper review of the facility's capability to comply with the requirements of Federal and State Air Quality Control regulations. State laws specify that a permit shall be issued on evidence satisfactory to the Director of compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations and requirements.

After the comment period has expired, the EPD will consider all comments, and make any necessary changes. Copies of the final Title V Operating Permit, Final Determination, comments received, EPD's responses to comments, and any other relevant information will then be made available for public review during normal business hours at the office of the Air Protection Branch, as well as at the Internet addresses given above.

For additional information, contact Eric Cornwell, Program Manager, Stationary Source Permitting Program, at the Atlanta address, or by phone at 404/363-7000. Please refer to this notice when requesting information.